

EDIBLE SPREAD CONTAINING A NATURAL FAT PHASE

5

The present invention deals with an edible emulsion spread containing a natural fat phase and a process for its preparation.

10

BACKGROUND AND PRIOR ART

Butter is an edible emulsion spread consisting of a continuous fat phase and an aqueous phase which is dispersed as fine droplets in the fat phase. The fat phase
15 consists of dairy fat, a 100% natural fat. Margarine too is a fat continuous emulsion, but margarine fat is not natural, but has been processed in order to give margarine properties desired for a spread. The fat phase of margarine and of similar fat continuous emulsion spreads is a mixture
20 of a fat which is fully liquid (the oil part of the fat phase) and a fat which is solid at ambient temperature.

The solid fat, denoted as hardstock fat, serves to structure the fat phase and helps to stabilize the
25 emulsion. For imparting to common margarine a semi-solid, plastic, spreadable consistency this stabilizing and structuring functionality plays an important role. The crystals of the solid fat form a network throughout the liquid oil resulting into a structured fat phase. The
30 aqueous phase droplets are fixed within the spaces of the lattice of solid fat crystals. In this way coalescence of the droplets and separation of the heavier aqueous phase from the fat phase is prevented.

The technology of spread processing is well established. The type of fat and the ratio of liquid oil and solid fat are chosen such that after proper processing of the fat blend with an aqueous phase a plastic product with a
5 suitable consistency and mouthfeel is obtained.

Vegetable oils are the usual source for preparing margarine fats. Vegetable fats are preferred over animal fats because their unsaturated fat composition enhances the spread's
10 nutritional value. Besides that, vegetable fats are an abundant and relatively cheap resource. However, natural, non-processed vegetable fats which are suited as hardstock fat are rather rare.

Fractionation, hydrogenating and interesterification are
15 the normally used treatments for turning liquid vegetable oils into suitable hardstock fats.

The present trend in food processing is to avoid processing, particularly chemical processing as much as
20 possible and to opt for natural ingredients and natural processing. Natural means that the ingredients have a natural origin and after harvesting have been subjected to no other treatment than a refining or purification treatment and to no modification treatment whatsoever. This
25 trend strongly appeals to present consumer appreciation. It also may contribute to the economy of the production process.

Generally, fats with a high content of HUH triglycerides
30 show good structuring properties. H denotes a C16-C24 saturated fatty acid residue, such as palmitic acid (C16) or stearic acid (C18) and U denotes an unsaturated C18 fatty acid residue, such as oleic acid (C18:1) or linoleic acid (C18:2).

THE

25 Natural, non-processed hardstock fats with a high content of HUH in which H mainly is a stearic acid residue are still much sought ingredients for the manufacture of emulsion spreads with a wholly natural fat phase.

The present invention satisfies the need of a natural non-processed hardstock fat with such triglyceride content.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is based on the discovery of vegetable fats which have such beneficial triglyceride composition that they can be used as such as a natural hardstock fat for spread manufacture. Those fats do not need any modification after refining. The fats are known under the names Allanblackia fat and Pentadesma fat. They contain a high StOSt content: about 65 wt.% of the triglycerides of Allanblackia fat and about 48 wt.% of the triglycerides of Pentadesma fat is StOSt, where St is a stearic acid residue and O is an oleic acid residue.

The present invention provides an edible W/O emulsion spread comprising 70-20 wt.% of an aqueous phase dispersed in 30-80 wt.% of a fat phase which fat phase is a mixture of 50-99 wt.% of a vegetable triglyceride oil A and 1-50 wt.% of a structuring triglyceride fat B, which fat consists of 5 - 100 wt.% of a hardstock fat C and up to 95 wt.% of a fat D, characterized in that at least 45 wt.% of the hardstock fat C triglycerides consist of SOS triglycerides, where S denotes a fatty acid residue with a saturated C18-C24 carbon chain and O denotes an oleic acid residue and with the proviso that any hardstock fat C which has been obtained by fractionation, hydrogenation, esterification or interesterification of the fat is excluded.

The invention further provides a process for the preparation of such edible W/O emulsion spreads.

5

1

2

2

3

elevated temperatures, while when swallowed it gives a pleasant quick melting sensation in the mouth.

Allanblackia fat has a high (60 - 80 wt.%) content of SOS triglycerides, a low SSS content and the remainder of the fat mainly consisting of SOO.

With a content of 48 wt.% StOSt also Pentadesma fat without modification can be used as a hardstock fat.

10

A natural fat containing at least 45 wt.% of SOS triglycerides is a much desired hardstock fat. Until now no method is known for realizing production of such fats without a modification treatment. Fractionation was inevitable in order to increase the SOS content.

Most preferably, fat B of the present fat phase consists fully of the natural hardstock fat C containing at least 45 wt.% SOS. However, up to 95 wt.%, preferably only up to 50 wt.% of fat C may be substituted by another fat D. This fat might have structuring properties of itself. Generally, besides the hardstock fat C, any fat D may be present which does not adversely affects the quality of the final spread product and which together with fat C provides sufficient structuring functionality to fat blend B.

Suitable fats D are palm oil, palm kernel fat, coconut fat, babassu fat, shea fat and their fractions. Fats D may have been subjected by enzymatic rearrangement.

Like fat C, preferably fat D too qualifies as a natural fat, so that the spread's fat phase can qualify as natural. Preferably, the unmodified high-SOS hardstock fat C consists of Allanblackia fat and/or Pentadesma fat or a mixture of both.

- emulsifying 70-20 wt.% of an aqueous phase with 30-80 wt.% of a fat phase which is a mixture of 50-99 wt.% of a vegetable oil A and 1-50 wt.% of a structuring fat B consisting of fat C and optional fat D as defined in claim 1,

The invention excludes the use of hardstock fats C which have been obtained by fractionation, hydrogenation, esterification or interesterification and, more generally, hardstock fats are excluded which have been obtained by other processing than a refining or purification treatment.

30

Generally, a blending ratio of 30 wt.% of structuring fat B and 70 wt.% of liquid oil A affords a suitable margarine fat phase. A fat phase when prepared for example with 30 wt.% of unprocessed Allanblackia fat and 70 wt.% of

10

1892

20

25

The aqueous phase and the fat phase are prepared by mixing the respective ingredients. Then both phases are emulsified. The crude pre-emulsion is subjected to the

textbooks such as K.A. Alexandersen, Margarine Processing Plants and Equipment (Vol.4, Bailey's Industrial Oil and Fat Products, Wiley and Sons Inc., New York 1996).

- 5 Preferably the invented spread is prepared with only natural ingredients.

Example

- 10 Allanblackia floribunda fat was purified under standard refining conditions.

A spread according to the invention was prepared using the fat blend of Table 1 for preparing a pre-emulsion according to Table 2. The pre-emulsion was processed in a A-A-C line
15 under the conditions listed in Table 3.

An assay of the resulting spread is shown in Table 4.
The product is easily spreadable from the refrigerator. The spread shows a steep melting line which causes a very pleasant mouthfeel. The hardness values point to good
20 ambient stability.

TABLE 1

Fat blend	wt. %
Rapeseed oil	70
Allanblackia	30
SOS	21
SOO	12
SOS/SLS	78
total SAFA	22
Solid fat	
N5	24.5
N10	22.4
N15	20
N20	16
N25	11.4
N30	5.3
N35	0

5

TABLE 2

Pre-emulsion	wt. %
Fat blend	80
Bolec ZT	0.32
Hymono 8903	0.035
Flavour	trace
B-carotene	0.048
Water	18.6
K-sorbate	0.073
Whey protein	0.55
Salt	0.28
Citric acid	0.05
End pH	4.6

TABLE 3

Process settings:				
Premix 60°C, pump 4.45 kg/h, pressure 8 bar				
		A-unit 1	A-unit 2	C-unit
Temp in	°C	44	17	12
Temp out	°C	17	12	14
Volume	ml	18.3	18.3	150
rpm	/min	600	600	200
direct storage: 15° and 5°C				

5

TABLE 4

Stevens 4.4 hardness (g) of spread				
C	1 week	2 weeks	4 weeks	9 weeks
5°	70	67	60	56
15°	62	70	86	94
20°	60	76	82	